



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 32:3-36:43
- II Corinthians 10:4-6
- Ephesians 4:25-27
- Genesis 49:5-7

ZEAL OR ZEAL

- The Prologue
- Zealous for Yahweh
- Zealous for My Way
- Yah's Way or My Way

It can get really confusing at times. A righteous anger rises up inside of you, or is it? It feels right; it must be right. Surely Yahweh will punish this heinous act. Surely He hates unrighteousness. I can read it in the Bible.

Just look at what He told Saul to do! "I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel...go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them." And just read how He blessed Phinehas for ramming a spear through a Moabite harlot and her Israelite boyfriend; "Phinehas has turned back My wrath from Israel...because he was zealous with My zeal; ...Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants...because he was zealous for his God."

And yet, when Simeon and Levi jumped into action and killed Shechem, his father Hamor, and all the males of the city because Shechem violated their sister Dinah, their father Jacob was infuriated. He later calls them “self-willed instruments of cruelty” and removes a blessing from them.

So, how do you know if you are being a Phinehas or a Simeon? Paul had the answer; “...being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” Phinehas must have been acting in obedience, Simeon and Levi, not so much.

What motivated their behaviors? Phinehas was zealous for God, and made atonement for the children of Israel. In other words, his actions ended unrighteousness and saved lives. Jacob’s sons, on the other hand, killed many, plundered the city, took all the wealth, and enslaved wives and children. Their motivation was carnal and atoned for nothing. What is motivating your zeal these days and how do you know?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword **and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.** And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem’s house,

and went out. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, **because their sister had been defiled.**" Genesis 34:25-27 NKJV

"But they said, **"Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"**"
Genesis 34:31 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"For the weapons of our warfare are not **carnal** but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**" II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV

"Therefore, putting away lying, **"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,"** for we are members of one another. **"Be angry, and do not sin":** do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV

"Simeon and Levi are brothers; **Instruments of cruelty** are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; **For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel!** I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel." Genesis 49:5-7 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. Jacob prepares to meet Esau as he returns to the Promised Land, but first he engages in a mysterious all-night wrestling match with an angel in the darkness. His spiritual **tenacity** to “never let go until he is blessed” inspires a name change. The angel calls him Israel, “one who has struggled with God and with men, and has prevailed.” The portion follows Jacob’s adventures in the land of Canaan, including the loss of his beloved wife, Rachel.

Genesis 32

2. As Jacob journeys back to the Promised Land, he encounters his brother Esau. Remember, he “escaped” from Esau at the advice of his mother Rebekah, after she helped plot the the scheme for Jacob to hijack Esau’s firstborn blessing from their father Isaac. Jacob assumes his “hunter” brother is still furious, so he hatches a plan to hedge against the likelihood that Esau will exact revenge.
3. Jacob sends a delegation ahead with a lot of “stuff” to bless his brother and to “buy off” his favor, only to find his brother is already on the way to meet him with four hundred men.
4. Greatly afraid, Jacob divides his people into separated groups, so at least some of them can escape if attacked.

5. Jacob prays and reminds Yahweh of His promises to protect him on his return journey (Genesis 31:3, 13) and to multiply his decedents as the sands of the sea.
6. Jacob assembles generous gifts for his brother and delivers them in separate droves to his servants, who he instructs to offer Esau one drove at a time, all with a message aiming to soften his inevitable face-to-face encounter.
7. He instructs his servants to tell Esau that the gifts are from Jacob, and to refer to him as “Esau’s servant” (Genesis 32:18, 20). He feels this will appease Esau to “perhaps accept him.”
8. **Wresting with God:** Then we see the famous narrative in which Jacob wrestles with God. He encounters a “man” who “wrangles” with him all night, and this is where we see Jacob’s spiritual tenacity. No doubt, when we are desperate for God to show up on our behalf we tend to really dig in! The man tries to get loose from Jacob’s grasp as they wrestle, but Jacob insists, “*I will not let You go unless You bless me!*” (Genesis 32:26 NKJV)
This entire encouter inspires one of the great prophetic moments in Scripture.
 - a) *“And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.””* Genesis 32:28 NKJV

b) Jacob then calls the name of the place where this occurs—
Peniel, *“For I have seen God face to face, and my life is
preserved.”* Genesis 32:30 NKJV

9. This is all great preparation for what comes next, as he is about to come face-to-face with a great fear, the brother from whom he extracted both his birthright and blessing.

Genesis 33

10. Chapter 33 records the first “post-blessing-theft” encounter between brothers. Jacob preps by putting his children and their respective mothers in order of how they would encounter Esau, presuming the ones out front are in the greatest danger. The maidservants Bilhah and Zilpah and their children go first; then Leah and her children; and finally Rachel and Joseph (his favorites) last.

11. The encounter does not go as Jacob expected. Esau is not angry at all, but is instead overjoyed to see his brother and meet his family. But, he questions why Jacob sent all those gifts in advance. Jacob tells him it was to find favor, of course. Esau graciously says he needs none of it, as he too is already abundantly blessed.

12. Jacob insists Esau take the gifts and makes this curious statement. *“No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen*

your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me." (Genesis 33:10 NKJV) At this urging Esau accepts and they depart from one another peaceably.

13. Remember, Jacob just had an encounter with "God" that ended with him declaring —"*For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*" (Genesis 32:30)— And now, he is making a similar statement as he looks upon his older brother, "*I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God.*" It would seem that Jacob and his brother have been "wrestling" since the womb, as you may recall. During birth, Jacob hung on to Esau's heel (Genesis 25:26), much like his present experience, many years later, when he would not let go of God until he was blessed. It's prophetic that the wrestling in the womb was a foreshadow of this future moment in Jacob's life, at which time his spiritual tenacity would be on full display!
14. Jacob arrives back in Canaan and purchases a piece of land and erects an altar and calls that place, "El Elohe Israel", which means "mighty is the God of Israel" (Genesis 33:20). Jacob is coming to realize the magnitude of his calling; remember, as far as he knows—**he is Israel!**

Genesis 34

15. Chapter 34 describes the incident with Dinah. Remember she is Leah's daughter, Jacob's 11th born child, but as a female she is

not counted in the birth order. She was born after Zebulun, the tenth son, and before Joseph.

16. Dinah is raped by Hamor's son Shechem, and this ignites a volatile situation. Jacob finds out what happened when Hamor comes to convince him to let her marry his son, whom he claims is quite smitten with her. Jacob's sons (especially Leah's sons who are Dinah's full siblings) are NOT HAPPY about what has happened to their sister! Nevertheless, Hamor tries to make a deal with Jacob; "Let's intermarry our daughters and make some great trades and land deals!"
17. Jacob's sons seem to be in agreement with this arrangement with one potential "deal breaking" stipulation. The males on Hamor's side must all be circumcised if they are to marry any women on Jacob's side.
18. Hamor and Shechem convince all the males on their side that this is a good deal, as they get these great women, plus these women also come with wealth!
19. So, all the males get circumcised and on the third day, while they are still incapacitated with pain, **Simeon and Levi** slaughter them all in revenge, including Hamor and Shechem. They take back their sister, plunder the city, and take the women and children captive.

20. Jacob is not happy, as he worries they have now awakened a sleeping giant, fearful that the Canaanites and Perizzites will amass against him. *“Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, ...”*” Genesis 34:30 NKJV

21. This impetuous act is not forgotten when, much later, Jacob is placing his final blessing on his sons at the end of Genesis, nor does Moses forget, as he places his final blessings on Israel at the end of Deuteronomy:

a) **Jacob’s Final Blessings:** *““Simeon and Levi are brothers; **Instruments of cruelty** are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; **For in their anger they slew a man**, And in their self-will they hamstringed an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.”* Genesis 49:5-7 NKJV

b) And in the final final blessings of Moses in Deuteronomy 33, Simeon is not even mentioned!

Genesis 35

22. In Chapter 35 Jacob returns to Bethel as Yahweh instructs, and Jacob tells the people to purify themselves and to get rid of their idols. On their journey they put the fear of Yahweh in the cities all around them.

23. Yahweh appears to Jacob again and affirms the all-important name change that we saw in Genesis 32:28! *“And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, **but Israel shall be your name.**” So He called his name Israel.”* Genesis 35:10 NKJV
24. The four promises that date all the way back to his grandparents Abraham and Sarah are once again reiterated: *“Also God said to him: “I am God Almighty. [1] **Be fruitful and multiply;** [2] **a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you,** and [3] **kings shall come from your body.** [4] **The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.”**”* Genesis 35:11-12 NKJV
25. Then Jacob’s beloved Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin and we are reminded of the 12 sons of Jacob and to whom they were born: (Reuben #1, Simeon #2, Levi #3, Judah #4, Dan #5, Naphtali #6, Gad #7, Asher #8, Issachar #9, Zebulun #10, *Dinah between #s 10 & 11*, Joseph #11, Benjamin #12)
- (1) Leah—Laban’s firstborn daughter and Jacob’s first wife
- (a) Reuben #1
 - (b) Simeon #2
 - (c) **Levi #3** (The Priesthood comes from this line.)
 - (d) **Judah #4** (The Messiah comes from this line.)
 - (e) Issachar #9 (After the Mandrakes)

- (f) Zebulun #10
- (g) Dinah (a girl comes after #10 but does not figure in birth order.)
- (2) Bilhah—Rachel’s Maidservant
 - (a) Dan #5
 - (b) Naphtali #6
- (3) Zilpah—Leah’s Maidservant
 - (a) Gad #7
 - (b) Asher #8
- (4) Rachel—Laban’s second daughter; Jacob’s second and favorite wife!
 - (a) **Joseph #11** (THE FIRSTBORN of Jacob’s true love)
 - (b) **Benjamin #12** (Deep prophetic significance.)

26. Then Isaac dies at 180 years old and is buried by Esau and Jacob.

Genesis 36

27. Chapter 36 recounts the entire family line of Esau and his sons.

We see that Esau took wives in Canaan and his five sons were born in Canaan: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These five sons became the “Chiefs of Edom” in Mt. Seir. Esau is synonymous with Edom as Esau is the father of the Edomites.

Note: Reuel was Ishmael’s grandson born to his daughter Basemath (also called **Mahalath** in Genesis 28:9)

28. Then the sons and family line of Seir, the Horite who already inhabited the land, are named.
29. Then the Kings of Edom are named, kings who reigned before there was ever a king over Israel. You may recall (and we will see later in our studies) that Yahweh never intended to place a king over Israel. It will be the people who demand a king, as Israel looks upon the pagan nations and how they do things, and they want to copy them!
30. Finally, the Chiefs of Esau are named and we are again reminded: *“Esau was the father of the Edomites.”* Genesis 36:43 NKJV
31. Last year’s message on the portion can be found here: [Spiritual Tenacity](#)

THE PROLOGUE

1. **Decisions with Bad Outcomes**

A. **Acting Out of Anger**

(1) Mixed in with the wrong crowd

(a) “Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, **went out to see the daughters of the land.**” Genesis 34:1 NKJV

1. “Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”” I Corinthians 15:33 NKJV

(2) Love does not do that!

(a) “And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he **took her and lay with her, and violated her.** His soul was **strongly attracted** to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, **and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.** So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this young woman as a wife.”” Genesis 34:2-4 NKJV

(3) Angry bothers!

(a) “And Jacob heard that he had **defiled Dinah his daughter.** Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; **so Jacob held his peace until they came.** Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; **and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing** in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.” Genesis 34:5-7 NKJV

(4) A little cash to cover up the crime...

(a) “But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “**The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter.** Please give her to him as a wife. And **make marriages with us;** give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to

yourselves. So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. **Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it.**”” Genesis 34:8-10 NKJV

(5) Name your price and we are good to go!

(a) “Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and **whatever you say to me I will give**. Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and **I will give according to what you say to me**; but give me the young woman as a wife.”” Genesis 34:11-12 NKJV

(6) We have a deal with one tiny stipulation...

(a) “But the **sons of Jacob answered** Shechem and Hamor his father, and **spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister**. And they said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us. But on this condition we will consent to you: **If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised, then we will give our daughters to you**, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone.”” Genesis 34:13-17 NKJV

(7) It's a deal!

- (a) **“And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor’s son. So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father.”**

Genesis 34:18-19 NKJV

(8) Selling it to others...

- (a) “And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying: “These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. **Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters. Only on this condition** will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if **every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours?** Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us.””

Genesis 34:20-23 NKJV

(9) Okay, we kept our part...

- (a) “And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; **every male was**

circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.”

Genesis 34:24 NKJV

(10) The deal is off!

(a) “Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, **Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.** And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem’s house, and went out. **The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.** They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.” Genesis 34:25-29 NKJV

1. **Food for Thought:** “Therefore, putting away lying, **“Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,”** for we are members of one another. **“Be angry, and do not sin”:** do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV

(11) Did Jacob’s sons do the right thing?

(a) **“Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I.””** Genesis 34:30 NKJV

1. **Food for Thought:** “For the weapons of our warfare are not **carnal** but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”** II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV

(12) They certainly did the right thing in their minds...

(a) “But they said, **“Should he treat our sister like a harlot?”**” Genesis 34:31 NKJV

B. But it seems they DID NOT do what was right! Acting on your own never works out in the end...

(1) This impetuous act is not forgotten when, much later, Jacob places his final blessing on his sons at the end of

Genesis, nor does Moses forget, as he places his final blessings on Israel at the end of Deuteronomy:

- (a) **Jacob's Final Blessings:** *“Simeon and Levi are brothers; **Instruments of cruelty** are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; **For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will** they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.”* Genesis 49:5-7 NKJV
- (b) And in the final final blessings of Moses in Deuteronomy 33, Simeon is not even mentioned!

Summary: THE PROLOGUE

1. Decisions with Bad Outcomes

A. Acting Out of Anger

- (1) First Dinah mixed in with the wrong crowd and we know, “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
- (2) Love does not do this! “He took her and lay with her, and violated her.”
- (3) Angry bothers! “The men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing”

- (4) Here some cash to cover up the crime... "Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."
- (5) Name your price and we are good to go!
- (6) We have a deal with one tiny stipulation...get circumcised. And by the way, we have no intention on keeping this deal!
- (7) It's a deal! Now sell your men on it.
- (8) Okay, we kept our part...every male was circumcised.
- (9) The deal is off! Now that you are all crouched in pain, we will wipe out the men and enslave the women and children.
 - (a) So much for "speak truth with his neighbor," and "Be angry, and do not sin."
- (10) Jacob is sure his sons did not do the right thing. They were thinking carnally and acted out of disobedience.
- (11) But they certainly didn't think so.
- (12) In the end they are accused of being angry instruments of cruelty.

ZEALOUS FOR YAHWEH

2. Zeal that comes from God!

A. Whose righteousness are you walking in?

- (1) What is Zeal?

- (a) Fervent, Ardent, Fiery, Passionate, Devout, Committed, Dedicated, Enthusiastic—all of these with authenticity and without pretense!
- (2) The Zeal of Phinehas
- (a) “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, **because he was zealous with My zeal** among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel **in My zeal**. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because **he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.**’ ”” Numbers 25:10-13 NKJV
1. **What were the people doing?** “Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit **harlotry with the women of Moab**. They invited the people **to the sacrifices of their gods**, and the people ate and **bowed down to their gods**. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.” Numbers 25:1-3 NKJV
 2. **What was Yahweh’s response?** “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and

hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to the judges of Israel, **"Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."**" Numbers 25:4-5 NKJV

3. **What did Phinehas do and how did Yahweh react?**

"And indeed, **one of the children of Israel** came and presented to his brethren **a Midianite woman** in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, **who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting**. Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation **and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through**, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. **So the plague was stopped** among the children of Israel." Numbers 25:6-8 NKJV

4. **Summary:**

- 1) The People committed harlotry and idolatry
- 2) Yahweh has the offenders executed in public (and people are dying by a plague)
- 3) One man activates with authentic zeal

- 4) Yahweh halts His punishment because of it
- (3) The long term blessing because of what Phinehas did:
- (a) Somehow, this violent response by Phinehas was EXACTLY what was on Yahweh's heart.
 - (b) I give to him My covenant of peace! Yahweh makes an **everlasting covenant** with Phinehas and his descendants after him, a covenant of an everlasting priesthood. The greatest fruit of this will show up **FOURTEEN GENERATIONS later!** Can you imagine?
- (4) Why such a blessing for such a man?
- (a) Phinehas found himself in a tough spot that threatened the peace of God's people, and he made a radical choice to stand on the side of righteousness, "because he was zealous for his God." And for that Yahweh made to him this amazing promise. "I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him." Why such a blessing for such a man? The psalmist gives us the best explanation.
 1. ***"Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace."*** Psalms 37:37
 2. ***"Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble."*** Psalms 119:165

3. If we amalgamate these thoughts it becomes clear. The blameless and upright man is zealous for Yahweh, obeys Him, and experiences His peace.
4. **In other words:** *“casting down arguments and every high thing **that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and **being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**”* ||
Corinthians 10:5-6 NKJV

B. His righteousness or your own righteousness?

- (1) Zealous...and walking in Yahweh's righteousness
 - (a) **Consider the Psalmist's conclusion of the matter:** *“They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead. Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them. **Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, And the plague was stopped. And that was accounted to him for righteousness To all generations forevermore.**”* Psalms 106:28-31 NKJV
- (2) Zealous but...Ignorant of Yahweh's Righteousness (In other words, operating in your own righteousness.)
 - (a) **Consider what Paul says the opposite of that looks like:** *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel*

is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.** For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness,** have not submitted to **the righteousness of God.** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Romans 10:1-4 NKJV

1. **The Righteousness of God!** "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us **by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:"** II Peter 1:1 NKJV
2. Zealous but not with God's righteousness
3. Ignorant of God's righteousness
4. Seeking to establish you own righteousness
5. Christ is the goal of that righteousness.
6. True righteousness only comes through Christ
7. This is how we can tap the heart of God regularly (for we have the mind of Christ, I Corinthians 2:16)
8. For a detailed look at the actions of Phinehas see: [My Peace I Give You](#)

Summary: ZEALOUS FOR YAHWEH

2. Zeal that comes from God!

A. Whose righteousness are you walking in?

- (1) What is Zeal? Fervent, Ardent, Fiery, Passionate, Devout, Committed, Dedicated, Enthusiastic—all of these with authenticity and without pretense!
- (2) The Zeal of Phinehas: “because he was zealous with My zeal...because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.”
- (3) What were the people doing? “Committing harlotry with the women of Moab, sacrificing and bowing to their gods.”
- (4) What was Yahweh’s response? “Hang the offenders, kill the men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”
- (5) What did Phinehas do and how did Yahweh react? “He took a javelin; and thrust it through the man of Israel and his harlot. Then the plague stopped. One man who activated with righteous zeal halted God’s punishment.
- (6) The long term blessing for Phinehas: an everlasting covenant of peace.
- (7) Why: “**Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace.**” (Psalms 37:37) “**Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.**” Psalms 119:165

- (8) If we amalgamate these thoughts it becomes clear. The blameless and upright man is he who is zealous for Yahweh, loves to obey Him, and experiences His peace.
- (9) In other words: “Being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”
- (10) Phinehas was zealous and walking in Yahweh’s righteousness.
- (11) As opposed to being zealous but ignorant of Yahweh’s Righteousness (In other words, operating in his own righteousness.)
- (12) For a detailed look at the actions of Phinehas see: [My Peace I Give You](#)

ZEALOUS FOR MY WAY

3. I Prefer it My Way!

A. Your instructions are clear!

- (1) Utterly destroy evil...
- (a) **“Samuel also said to Saul,** “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, **heed the voice of the words of the Lord.** Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. **Now go and attack Amalek, and**

utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ” So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. Then Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. **He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.”** I Samuel 15:1-9 NKJV

1. Conquer Amalek “utterly” and spare NOTHING!

2. Everything despised and worthless, he does “utterly” destroy.
3. However, Saul spares king Agag and is unwilling to “utterly” destroy the best of what was good.
4. I don’t think Saul gets what “utterly” means.
5. Utterly: completely, totally, absolutely, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, etc...

B. I did it MY WAY!

(1) I did do what you said—really!

- (a) “Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, **“I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.”** And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, **“Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself;** and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.” Then Samuel went to Saul, **and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”** But Samuel said, **“What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”** And Saul said, **“They have brought them from**

the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." Then Samuel said to Saul, **"Be quiet!** And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? **Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'** Why then did you not **obey the voice of the Lord?** Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?" **And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."** So Samuel said: **"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat**

of rams. **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.**”” I Samuel 15:10-23
NKJV

1. Yahweh tells Samuel that He regrets making Saul king because he disregarded His commands.
2. Samuel seeks out Saul and finds that he has gone off to build a monument for himself!
3. When Samuel tracks down Saul, Saul greets Samuel with a blessing and the pronouncement that he has “performed the commandment of Yahweh!”
4. Samuel, utterly astounded, points out that he hears the sounds of animals and wonders from where they are coming.
5. In utter oblivion, Saul says, “Oh that sound; those are the good animals the people saved to sacrifice to the Lord when I was utterly destroying everything as commanded by Yahweh.”
6. Samuel just tells Saul to shut up and listen. He reiterates what Yahweh actually told Saul to do and what “utterly” actually means.

7. The Lord sent you on a mission to utterly (completely, totally, absolutely, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly) destroy the Amalekites, to fight them until they are consumed.
8. Then, in the most oblivious response imaginable, Saul defends his actions: “I have obeyed the Lord, I brought back king Agag; and I utterly destroyed the Amalekites, except, of course, the people took the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed and didn’t destroy them. But, wait for it... they did it for God!” Oh and, the people made me do it!
9. Samuel calls Saul a rebellious witch and tells him that his obstinance has caused Yahweh to now reject him.

C. Blaming others: the people made me do it!

- (1) Leaders who fear what the people think more than they fear God!
 - (a) “Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, **because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.** Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.” But Samuel said

to Saul, **“I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.”** And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, **“The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.** And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.” Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.” So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel said, **“Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.”** So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, **“Surely the bitterness of death is past.”** But Samuel said, **“As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.”** And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for

Saul, and **the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.**" I Samuel 15:24-35 NKJV

1. Because Saul feared man over God, he loses his kingdom.
2. Rejecting God's word results in God rejecting you!
3. Samuel takes care of business himself and hacks Agag to pieces.
4. For details of Saul acting in his own righteousness see: [Preconceived Notions](#)

Summary: ZELOUS FOR MY WAY

3. I prefer it my way

A. Your instructions are clear!

(1) Utterly destroy evil...

- (a) Conquer Amalek "utterly" and spare NOTHING!
- (b) Everything despised and worthless, he does "utterly" destroy.
- (c) However, Saul spares king Agag and is unwilling to "utterly" destroy the best of what was good.
- (d) I don't think Saul gets what "utterly" means.
- (e) Utterly: completely, totally, absolutely, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, etc...

B. I did it MY WAY!

- (1) I did do what you said—really!
 - (a) Yahweh tells Samuel that He regrets making Saul king because he disregarded His commands.
 - (b) Samuel seeks out Saul and finds that he has gone off to build a monument for himself!
 - (c) When Samuel tracks down Saul, Saul greets Samuel with a blessing and the pronouncement that he has “performed the commandment of Yahweh!”
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 - (e) In utter oblivion, Saul says, “Oh that sound; those are the good animals the people saved to sacrifice to the Lord when I was utterly destroying everything as commanded by Yahweh.”
 - (f) Samuel just tells Saul to shut up and listen. He reiterates what Yahweh actually told Saul to do and what “utterly” actually means.
 - (g) The Lord sent you on a mission to utterly (completely, totally, absolutely, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly) destroy the Amalekites, to fight them until they are consumed.

- (h) Then, in the most oblivious response imaginable, Saul defends his actions: “I have obeyed the Lord, I brought back king Agag; and I utterly destroyed the Amalekites, except, of course, the people took the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed and didn’t destroy them. But, wait for it... they did it for God!” Oh and, the people made me do it!
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C. Blaming others: The people made me do it!

- (1) Leaders who fear what the people think more than they fear God!
 - (a) Because Saul feared man over God, he loses his kingdom.
 - (b) Rejecting God’s word results in God rejecting you!
 - (c) Samuel takes care of business himself and hacks Agag to pieces.
 - (d) For details of Saul acting in his own righteousness see: [Preconceived Notions](#)

YAH'S WAY OR MY WAY

4. How do you know the difference?

A. Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly Decision-Making (Read II Peter 1:1-15)

(1) It's first and foremost a reminder! This shall serve as a reminder of what they are ALREADY fully established in.

1. "For this **reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.** Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover **I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.**" II

Peter 1:12-15 NKJV

a) Peter says he is about to die and the powerful and essential discipleship truths he is about to write should not be new to them. This shall serve as a **reminder** of what they are ALREADY fully established in, and Peter is writing them down to serve as a **reminder** after his death!

(2) Let's use this reminder and apply it to the decision that Levi and Simeon made to determine if they would have

come to a different conclusion had they used it as a
“Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly
Decision-Making”

(a) Would they have arrived at these conclusions...

1. **Speak truth, be angry, but do not sin?** “Therefore, putting away lying, **“Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,”** for we are members of one another. **“Be angry, and do not sin”:** **do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”** Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV
2. **Not acted until their obedience was complete?** “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing **that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,** bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being **ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”** II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV

(b) Or these...

1. **Kill all the males; plunder the city; take women and children as slaves?** “Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, **Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took**

his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males. And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out. **The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.** They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, and **all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive;** and they plundered even all that was in the houses." Genesis 34:25-29 NKJV

- (3) The foundation of everything: Free Faith (II Peter 1:1)
 - (a) Like precious faith—the free gift from Yahweh
 - (b) The only way to obtain that faith: The righteousness of Christ (II Peter 1:1)
 - (c) This is the opposite of acting in your own righteousness
- (4) If you are willing to build upon His righteousness, then here are...
 - (a) Seven Precious Promises:
 1. Access to Divine Power (II Peter 1:3)
 2. Have everything we need for a Godly life (II Peter 1:3)
 3. Knowledge of Yahweh and Yahshua (II Peter 1:3)

4. Partakers in the divine nature (II Peter 1:4)
5. Escape the corruption in the world (II Peter 1:4)
6. Be neither barren nor unfruitful (II Peter 1:8)
7. Gain an abundant entrance into the Kingdom (II Peter 1:11)

(5) Seven things you must add to your free faith if you want all the above promises.

(a) This is NOT FREE! Add: Virtue, Knowledge, Self Control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Love, Love (II Peter 1:5-7)

1. Virtue—always the first thing that follows faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target!
2. Knowledge—is what you need to know in order to act wisely!
3. Self-control—don't follow your first impulses and desires!
4. Perseverance—doing what is right no matter how hard or how long it takes!
5. Godliness —let's call this holistic integrity!
6. Brotherly Kindness—It's simple, but not easy...prefer others!
7. Love—God is love, plain and simple!

(6) And the one thing that will block you from receiving God's promises and partaking in the divine nature...

(a) Forgetting you have already been cleansed from your past sins. (II Peter 1:9)

(7) So, because this is simply the most important discipleship and troubleshoot method there is...

(a) Be diligent to do these things

(b) You will not only spend eternity in the kingdom, but experience it right now on earth.

B. What would have happened had Levi and Simeon had this "Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly Decision-Making"?

(1) The foundation of everything: Free Faith sitting on the foundation of Christ's righteousness...(II Peter 1:1)

(a) This is the opposite of acting in your own righteousness

1. **There is no other proper foundation:** "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**" I Corinthians 3:9-11 NKJV

2. **The outcome will tell us the truth...a reward or a loss?** “Now if anyone **builds on this foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for **the Day will declare it**, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. **If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss;** but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” I Corinthians 3:12-17 NKJV

(2) Seven steps in the troubleshooting guide:

(a) Virtue—always the first thing that follows faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target! **Key Question: What is right in God’s eyes?**

1. “Now Dinah... **went out to see the daughters of the land.**” Genesis 34:1 NKJV

a) **Getting yourself in the wrong situation!** “Do not be deceived: **“Evil company corrupts good habits.”**” I Corinthians 15:33 NKJV

b) **Opposites don't mix! "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.""** II
Corinthians 6:14-16 NKJV

c) What was she doing out and about in the city?

1. No doubt she is visiting the population center because this is where the people are. She's certainly not strolling around in the countryside. And that is an important concept because if she was actually raped in the countryside, and there was no one to hear her cries, then she is a victim. But if she is in the the city and she utters not a peep for anyone to hear, maybe, just maybe, she's actually consenting to the torrid affair. And it would seem like she in in the city,

as it is in the city that Simeon and Levi later enact their retribution (see Genesis 34:25).

2. In addition, as we will see shortly, did her brothers act based on having all the facts?

(b) Knowledge—is what you need to know in order to act wisely! **Key Question: What am I missing?**

1. “And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; **and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing** in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.” Genesis 34:7 NKJV

- a) **Do not act based on your flesh! And make sure you are walking in obedience before you hold someone else accountable for their disobedience!**
“For the weapons of our warfare are not **carnal** but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**” II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV

b) **Speak truth and do not act out of anger!**

“Therefore, putting away lying, **“Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,”** for we are members of one another. **“Be angry, and do not sin”**: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV

c) **Remove the log from your own eye!** “Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly** to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” Matthew 7:5 NKJV

d) What would have Simeon and Levi seen had they opened their eyes?

1. Do they actually know what happened? Are they furious because their sister was actually raped. Or, did she actually have consensual sex. We see no inquiries. We see no testimony from Dinah, no complaints, and no accusations. We only know what happened because Shechem and Hamor volunteer the information, obviously not concerned at all about what took place. Now, even so, this relationship is NOT Yahweh’s best. But, was she raped or was she out in the

city doing what many young people do, testing the limits of her upbringing. No matter what the truth is about what was in her heart, what we know for sure is that Simeon and Levi don't have the full story and they acted WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.

2. I want to refer to an Excellent Teaching from the Old Testament regarding a full understanding of what may have happened here between Dinah and Shechem. I will only reference the Scriptures here and I highly encourage you to visit this article to read the details: [Consensual Sex vs. Rape](#)
3. I will summarize it here:
 - a) Deuteronomy 22:25-29 helps us distinguish the laws that apply to rape vs. consensual sex.
 - b) It is still a violation, even if rape is not involved, if the sex is not within the context of marriage. However, there are legal remedies for consensual sex outside of marriage.

- c) If it is not rape, but only an enticement toward consensual sex (outside of marriage), there is a price to pay as per Exodus 22:16-17.
 - d) Contrast this to the actual rape of Tamar by Ammon in 2 Samuel 13:10-32.
 - e) All this to say, we have no real evidence that Dinah was actually raped. And it would seem that the offer to pay for what happened without covering it up or having to “be discovered” (as indicated in a true rape case in Deuteronomy 22:25-29) would lend to the idea that, although what they did was not right, it was also not rape.
 - f) The lack of knowledge here on the part of her brothers ended very badly as we know.
- (c) Self-control—don’t follow your first impulses and desires! **Key Question: Am I applying what I know?**
1. “But Hamor spoke with them, saying, **“The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter.** Please give her to him as a wife. And **make marriages with us;** give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves. So you shall dwell with us, and the land

shall be before you. **Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it.**” Genesis 34:8-10 NKJV

2. “Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and **whatever you say to me I will give.** Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and **I will give according to what you say to me;** but give me the young woman as a wife.””

Genesis 34:11-12 NKJV

1. **Why am I doing what is evil (or even considering it) when I know what is right?** “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. **For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.** Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”

Romans 7:18-20 NKJV

- (d) Perseverance—doing what is right no matter how hard or how long it takes! **Key Question: Am I walking out what is right, consistently?**

1. “But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and **spoke deceitfully, because he**

had defiled Dinah their sister. And they said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us. But on this condition we will consent to you: **If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised, then we will give our daughters to you,** and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone.”” Genesis 34:13-17 NKJV

- a) **I must recognize the battle going on inside when I want to abandon what I know is right!** “I find then a law, that **evil is present with me,** the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind,** and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law

of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:21-25 NKJV

- b) **To be carnally minded and walk according to the flesh is death; to be spiritually minded and walk according to the spirit is life!** “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.** For to be **carnally minded is death**, but to be **spiritually minded is life** and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So

then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:1-8 NKJV

(e) Godliness —let’s call this holistic integrity! **Key**

Question: Do I do what I say?

1. “But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and **spoke deceitfully**, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.” Genesis 34:13 NKJV

2. “**And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem**, Hamor’s son. So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. **He was more honorable than all the household of his father.**” Genesis 34:18-19 NKJV

a) “**Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor...**” Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV

b) “But **let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’** For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.” Matthew 5:37 NKJV

(f) Brotherly Kindness—It’s simple, but not easy...prefer others! **Key Question: Do I prefer others over my own desires?**

1. “Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, **Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword and**

came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out. **The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.** They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses." Genesis 34:25-29 NKJV

- a) **Think of others first!** "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. **Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV
- b) **Don't be a hypocrite!** **Let love be without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is

good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference to one another;**" Romans 12:9-10 NKJV

c) **"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.**

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32 NKJV

(g) Love—God is love, plain and simple! **Key Question: Is this really love?**

1. **"But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"**" Genesis 34:31 NKJV

2. **"His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah** the daughter of Jacob, **and he loved the young woman** and spoke kindly to the young woman." Genesis 34:3 NKJV

a) **Turn the cheek!** ""You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. **But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those**

who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?** Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" Matthew 5:38-39, 43-46 NKJV

- b) **Give them what they don't deserve!** "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the Lord will reward you." Proverbs 25:21-22 NKJV (also Romans 12:20)
- c) **This is Love:** "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..." (I Corinthians 13:4-8 NKJV) **Not This:** "And when

Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, **he took her and lay with her, and violated her.**" Genesis 34:2 NKJV

C. Important Teachings that support this content:

- (1) [Spiritual Amnesia](#)
- (2) [Precious Promises](#)
- (3) [The Path to the Divine Nature — Foundational Teaching](#)
- (4) [The Path to the Divine Nature — Workshop](#)
- (5) [The Path to the Divine Nature — Scripture Resources](#)
- (6) [Enough Already](#)
- (7) [Bicycles Don't Have Reverse](#)

Summary: YAH'S WAY OR MY WAY

4. How do you know the difference?

A. Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly Decision-Making (Read II Peter 1:1-15)

- (1) It's first and foremost a reminder! This shall serve as a reminder of what they are ALREADY fully established in.
- (2) Let's use this reminder and apply it to the decision that Levi and Simeon made to determine if they would have come to a different conclusion had they used it as a "Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly Decision-Making"

- (a) Would they have arrived at these conclusions...
 - 1. Speak truth, be angry, but do not sin?
 - 2. Not acted until their obedience was complete?
- (b) Or these...
 - 1. Kill all the males; plunder the city; take women and children as slaves?
- (3) The foundation of everything: Free Faith (II Peter 1:1)
 - (a) This is the opposite of acting in your own righteousness
- (4) If you are willing to build upon His righteousness, then here are seven AMAZING Precious Promises:
- (5) Seven things you must add to your free faith if you want all the promises: Virtue, Knowledge, Self Control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Love, Love (II Peter 1:5-7)
- (6) And the one thing that will block you from receiving God's promises and partaking in the divine nature...
 - (a) Forgetting you have already been cleansed from your past sins. (II Peter 1:9)
- (7) So, because this is simply the most important discipleship and troubleshoot method there is...
 - (a) Be diligent to do these things
 - (b) You will not only spend eternity in the kingdom, but experience it right now on earth.

B. What would have happened had Levi and Simeon had this “Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly Decision-Making”?

- (1) The foundation of everything: Free Faith sitting on the foundation of Christ’s righteousness...(II Peter 1:1)
 - (a) This is the opposite of acting in your own righteousness
 1. There is no other proper foundation anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
 2. The outcome will tell us the truth...a reward or a loss?
- (2) Seven steps in the troubleshooting guide:
 - (a) Virtue—always the first thing that follows faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target! **Key Question: What is right in God’s eyes?**
 - a) Getting yourself in the wrong situation! “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
 - b) Opposites don’t mix! “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”
 - c) What was she doing out and about in the city?
 - 1) No doubt she is visiting the population center because this is where the people are. She’s certainly not strolling around in the countryside. And that is an important concept because if she

was actually raped in the countryside, and there was no one to hear her cries, then she is a victim. But if she is in the the city and she utters not a peep for anyone to hear, maybe, just maybe, she's actually consenting to the torrid affair. And it would seem like she in in the city, as it is in the city that Simeon and Levi later enact their retribution (see Genesis 34:25).

2) In addition, as we will see shortly, did her brothers act based on having all the facts?

(b) Knowledge—is what you need to know in order to act wisely! **Key Question: What am I missing?**

1. “And the sons of Jacob were grieved and very angry.”

a) Do not act based on your flesh! And make sure you are walking in obedience before you hold someone else accountable for their disobedience!

b) Speak truth and do not act out of anger!

c) Remove the log from your own eye!

d) What would have Simeon and Levi seen had they opened their eyes?

1) Do they actually know what happened? Are they furious because their sister was actually raped. Or, did she actually have consensual sex.

We see no inquiries. We see no testimony from Dinah, no complaints, and no accusations. We only know what happened because Shechem and Hamor volunteer the information, obviously not concerned at all about what took place. Now, even so, this relationship is NOT Yahweh's best. But, was she raped or was she out in the city doing what many young people do, testing the limits of her upbringing. No matter what the truth is about what was in her heart, what we know for sure is that Simeon and Levi don't have the full story and they acted WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.

- 2) I want to refer to an Excellent Teaching from the Old Testament regarding a full understanding of what may have happened here between Dinah and Shechem. I will only reference the Scriptures here and I highly encourage you to visit this article to read the details: [Consensual Sex vs. Rape](#)
- 3) I will summarize it here:

- a. Deuteronomy 22:25-29 helps us distinguish the laws that apply to rape vs. consensual sex.
- b. It is still a violation, even if rape is not involved, if the sex is not within the context of marriage. However, there are legal remedies for consensual sex outside of marriage.
- c. If it is not rape, but only an enticement toward consensual sex (outside of marriage), there is a price to pay as per Exodus 22:16-17.
- d. Contrast this to the actual rape of Tamar by Ammon in 2 Samuel 13:10-32.
- e. All this to say, we have no real evidence that Dinah was actually raped. And it would seem that the offer to pay for what happened without covering it up or having to “be discovered” (as indicated in a true rape case in Deuteronomy 22:25-29) would lend to the idea that, although what they did was not right, it was also not rape.

- f. The lack of knowledge here on the part of her brothers ended very badly as we know.
- (c) Self-control—don't follow your first impulses and desires! **Key Question: Am I applying what I know?**
 - 1. "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers."
 - 2. "Trade with us and acquire possessions for yourselves"
 - 3. Why am I doing what is evil (or even considering it) when I know what is right?
- (d) Perseverance—doing what is right no matter how hard or how long it takes! **Key Question: Am I walking out what is right, consistently?**
 - 1. But the sons of Jacob **spoke deceitfully.**
 - a) I must recognize the battle going on inside when I want to abandon what I know is right!
 - b) To be carnally minded and walk according to the flesh is death; to be spiritually minded and walk according to the spirit is life!
- (e) Godliness —let's call this holistic integrity! **Key Question: Do I do what I say?**
 - 1. "The sons of Jacob spoke deceitfully"

- a) “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor...”
 - b) Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No.’
- (f) Brotherly Kindness—It’s simple, but not easy...prefer others! **Key Question: Do I prefer others over my own desires?**
1. ...killed all the males, plundered the city, enslaved the little ones and their wives
 - a) Think of others first!
 - b) Let love be without hypocrisy...giving preference to one another.
 - c) “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you...
- (g) Love—God is love, plain and simple! **Key Question: Is this really love?**
1. “Should he treat our sister like a harlot?”
 2. “His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah and he loved the young woman.
 - a) Turn the cheek!
 - b) Give them what they don’t deserve!
 - c) Love is I Corinthians 13:4-8, not “he took her and lay with her, and violated her.”

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. What was the very first mistake that led to Dinah being violated?**
 - A. Why would Jacob even entertain an offer to give over his daughter after she had been raped?
 - B. How did Shechem justify his actions?
- 2. What deal did Jacob's sons make with Shechem and Hamor?**
 - A. What did Levi and Simeon do instead of honoring their agreement?
 - B. How did Jacob react to their actions?
- 3. What did Phinehas do that seems just as violent as what Levi and Simeon did?**
 - A. How do we know Phinehas' actions were righteous?
 - B. What did Yahweh do in response?
 - C. Distinguish Yahweh's righteousness from your own righteousness.
- 4. Regarding what Saul was commanded to do to the Amalekites:**
 - A. Did he choose his own righteousness or the righteousness of God? Give evidence for your answer.
 - B. How did Yahweh treat Saul's actions?
 - C. How did Saul defend his actions?

5. Apply and discuss the “Troubleshooting Guide and Course Correction for Godly Decision-Making” in II Peter 1:1-15 to:

- A. Dinah’s decision to go hang out with the daughters of the land.
- B. Levi and Simeon’s choice to kill all the men, plunder the land, and enslave women and children.
- C. Jacob’s entertainment of the idea of co-mingling with the people of Canaan.
- D. Levi and Simeon’s choice go back on their words.